

UP-038

(BUSH)

HOUSTON (UPI) -- CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR GEORGE BUSH, A FORMER HOUSTON INDEPENDENT OIL OPERATOR AND CONGRESSMAN, SAYS THE CIA IS EFFECTIVE DESPITE RECENT CRITICISM IN THE PRESS AND FROM CONGRESS.

"WE HAVE A PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION," BUSH SAID YESTERDAY, ADDRESSING THE CONVENTION OF THE TEXAS MID-CONTINENT OIL & GAS ASSOCIATION. "IT'S DISCIPLINED. IT'S UNSELFISH. I HAVE NEVER BEEN SURROUNDED BY SO MUCH DEDICATION."

"I THINK YOU NEED TO KNOW THAT THE CIA DOESN'T THINK IT IS ABOVE THE LAW. I THINK YOU NEED TO KNOW WE'RE OPERATING WITHIN THE SPIRIT AND THE LETTER OF THE LAW."

BUSH SAID LEADERS OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES SOMETIMES BELIEVED ITS BUDGET WAS NOT SUBJECT TO SCRUTINY BY CONGRESS.

"THEY DO, IN INTIMATE DETAIL," BUSH SAID. "WE ARE COOPERATING WITH SEVEN CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES."

BUSH SAID, HOWEVER, HE CONCURRED IN A RECENT TWO-TO-ONE CONGRESSIONAL VOTE NOT TO MAKE THE AGENCY'S BUDGET PUBLIC.

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